

## ABSTRACT

Process and equipment for the treatment of stillage generated by the tequila industry during distillation and mashing, which are intended to eliminate any contaminants contained in the stillage for the purpose of water recovery by water vapour. A novel heat exchanger and stillage evaporator which are used during the process in order to ensure that the vapour generated thereby includes 100 % water vapour are also disclosed. The vapour can be re-used in the process line, thereby saving water and eliminating residual discharges to canals or rivers. The recovered solids can be used to produce sub-products having a high concentration of fibre, sugar, protein, as a mixture for livestock feed or biofertilizers, or to produce ethyl alcohol. The process does not require skilled labour and can be performed by general production personnel. The process requires a surface area of no more than 180m<sup>2</sup> and, complies with Official Mexican Standard NOM-001-ECOL-1996.